

# The Northern Canola News

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## 6th Annual Canola Day To Be Held

Be sure to join the Northern Canola Growers Association for the 6th Annual Canola Day, February 5, 2003. The NCGA event will be held in conjunction with the KNDK Trade Show at the Activity Center in Langdon, North Dakota.

The event will kick-off with registration at 8 a.m. Attendees will also have a chance to view the exhibits featuring the latest in agriculture and the canola industry.

North Dakota State University researchers, Bryan Hanson, John Lukach and Kent McKay will present to attendees on split applications of nitrogen to help increase canola yields, bin-run canola results and an update on the Langdon Research Center.

*6th Annual  
Canola Day  
February 5, 2003—Activity Center  
Langdon, North Dakota*

8:00	Registration / View Exhibits
9:00	Canola Fertilization; Bin-run canola results, Langdon Research Center News <i>Bryan Hanson, John Lukach &amp; Kent McKay, North Dakota State University</i>
9:30	Exhibitor Break
10:00	Biodiesel Outlook <i>Joe Jobe, Executive Director, National Biodiesel Board, Jefferson City, Missouri</i>
11:00	NCGA Annual Meeting
11:45	Free Lunch/View Exhibits
1:00	Canola Market Opportunities for 2003 <i>Mike Jubinville, ProFarmer Canada, Winnipeg</i>
2:00	Exhibitor Break
2:30	Sclerotinia Detection and Control <i>Art Lamey, Emeritus Extension Plant Pathologist</i>

Featured speaker Joe Jobe, Executive Director of the National Biodiesel Board, will address convention attendees on the future impacts of biodiesel on the canola industry. Prior to lunch, the NCGA will conduct its annual meeting. Elections for the industry and grower positions on the NCGA board will be held at that time.

A free lunch for all attendees will be hosted by the Northern Canola Growers Association. During the lunch hour, attendees will again be able to visit with exhibitors to view the latest in agriculture and the canola industry.

The afternoon featured speaker is Mike Jubinville from *ProFarmer Canada*. He will cover canola market opportunities for 2003.

The afternoon schedule will give attendees another opportunity to view exhibits. Art Lamey, Emeritus Extension Plant Pathologist will wrap-up the day's event.

We invite all those interested in the canola industry to attend this informative event!

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## “Go For The Gold”with Canola in 2003

### Canola may be the best choice you can make for 2003

As another year slips by, it brings renewed focus on finalizing crop rotations for 2003. For a cool season broadleaf in 2003, canola appears to be a solid choice. Attractive cash prices, strong demand, low ending stocks, and a supportive safety net in the new farm program all provide tools to ensure the marketing side of the equation is positive.

On the agronomic side, canola also shines. A wide array of herbicide options to fit your weed spectrum, excellent rotational benefits and efficient water use all make canola an ideal choice in all growing conditions.

Together, strong demand leading to strong market prices and sound agronomics make canola an excellent choice in 2003.

### Higher Prices!

Canola prices have rebounded dramatically from several years ago. Average prices received by growers in 2002 often exceeded \$12 per hundred-weight. Analysts are predicting strong canola prices in 2003, following weak Canadian production and increased demand for healthy canola oil from consumers.

### New, Improved Hybrids with Outstanding Yields!

Yield trials at North Dakota State University Research Centers show that over the last five years, top canola hybrids have increased steadily in yield. Growers have many more options to choose from in today's canola seed industry and there has never been a better time to take advantage of leading varieties.

### New Disease Control Options!

Canola growers now have even more options to choose from in controlling sclerotinia:

Ronilan, Topsin M and Quadris are all labeled for use on canola.

### Outstanding Weed Control Options to Keep Your Fields Clean!

There are now 13 weed control products labeled for use on canola compared to just five years ago. This means you will achieve excellent grass and broadleaf weed control in your canola crop to keep your fields clean for this year's canola, and equally important, keep your fields clean going into next year.

### Outstanding Safety Net Protection!

With the adjusted loan rate announced for canola in 2003, growers will have the kind of protection they need. The National Average Loan Rate for canola in 2003 is \$9.78 per hundredweight. However, the average county loan rate in North Dakota is \$9.89, which is more reflective of market prices. This is an increase of \$.27 per hundredweight from 2002!

### Outstanding Flea Beetle Protection Options!

Many outstanding products are now labeled for use on canola to control pesky flea beetles:

Seed Treatments – Helix, TI-435, Gaucho

Foliar Treatments – Warrior, Capture

With all of these positives, give canola serious consideration for the future!

# USDA Issues 2002 Crop Production Report

The USDA issued its final production report for 2002 on Friday, January 10. The report showed that canola production in North Dakota dropped slightly from 2001. Here is the data for canola in North Dakota and the rest of the U.S.:

Canola: Area Planted, Harvested, Yield, and Production  
by State and United States, 2000-2002

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
1,000 Acres						
MN	140	80	80	125	75	45
Others	145	114	79	123	95	70
ND	1,270	1,300	1,300	1,250	1,285	1,160
US	1,555	1,494	1,459	1,498	1,455	1,275
State	Yield			Production		
	2000	2001	2002	2000	2001	2002
Pounds						
MN	1,480	1,180	850	185,000	88,500	38,250
Others	1,328	1,169	1,250	163,310	111,015	87,470
ND	1,320	1,400	1,230	1,650,000	1,799,000	1,426,800
US	1,334	1,374	1,218	1,998,310	1,998,515	1,552,520

Other States include AL, AZ, CA, GA, ID, IN, KS, MI, MT, NY, OR, PA, SC, SD, and WA.

We feel the USDA numbers are low for North Dakota. NCGA sources indicate approximately 1,196,000 acres of canola were harvested in 2002, which is 36,000 acres above the USDA report numbers. This represents an additional \$44 million of canola production for 2002.

## Bacteria Crucial In Canola Production

*By Ed White*

Sitting on a laboratory table at Brett-Young Seeds' research headquarters are plastic bags of primitive life forms that company researchers think could be worth \$500 million a year to prairie farmers. The bags contain various ways of packaging the same thing — sulfur-oxidizing bacteria that could solve a big production problem for canola growers.

The bacteria could become as important for canola as nitrogen fixing bacteria are for pulse crops. Brett-Young is spending years, and millions of dollars, to make this theoretical possibility a commercial reality. "We know this works here," said Manas Banerjee, Brett-Young's director of research and development. "The trick is to make it work out there in the fields."

Canola is a major consumer of sulfur. The plants use it to make protein and oil, the products that make canola its money. Farmers used to get sulfur added to their fields when they applied ammonium sulfate fertilizer. But in recent years many farmers have switched to forms of nitrogen with higher analysis such as anhydrous ammonia or urea, said Canola Council of Canada senior agronomist John Mayko. These do not contain sulfur.

With producers now pushing canola yields higher with higher yielding varieties and better management practices, the drain of sulfur from the soil has increased. Many canola crops have suffered yield loss because of sulfur

*Continued on Page 4...*

deficiencies and farmers have few choices of how to remedy the situation. The concentration of sulfur in ammonium sulfate is such that it is a challenge for most farmers to use if a severe problem shows up after seeding. Not only is it bulky, but farmers do not want to make special field operations to apply only one element. "They want one-pass seeding," said Mayko. Many people believe that applications of elemental sulfur are good because they provide long-lasting supplementation.

But plants can't directly use elemental sulfur. It must be broken down by soil bacteria and turned into sulfate for the plants to use it, and that generally takes about one year. "It can't be used as a rescue source or as a treatment for an acute sulfur problem," said Mayko. Brett-Young's research is designed to take soil-dwelling rhizobacteria that break down sulfur and deliver the bacteria along with canola seed. Then, when the seed hits the soil, so do the bacteria that will quickly make elemental sulfur available to the growing plants.

Banerjee said scientists have identified bacteria that will work, and small tests

have shown that introducing the bacteria into sulfur-depleted soils has markedly increased plant size and production. But the problem is that bacteria are living organisms and cannot be stored indefinitely. They are delicate and need to be added in a way that keeps them alive through the seeding process, but that also makes them easy for farmers to use. Researchers are experimenting with the major delivery systems, including seed coating, peat moss and granules.

Manitoba Agriculture soil specialist John Heard said sulfur-oxidizing bacteria that can make elemental sulfur more readily available would offer growers another alternative in their canola management systems. "It may change or temper people's fertility practices," said Heard.

Mayko said sulfur deficiencies are likely to be an increasing problem. "Growers are targeting higher and higher yields, and they are going to need more and more sulfur," said Mayko.

Brett-Young chief executive officer Lloyd Dyck hopes to fill that need. "We think in the long run it's going to help farmers," said Dyck. "Its benefit is probably worth about half a billion dollars a year if we can find a proper delivery mechanism to get it to farmers in the field." —*Reprinted from the Western Producer*



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## 2002 Canola Disease Survey in North Dakota & Minnesota

Canola diseases were surveyed in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota in 2002. Approximately one field was surveyed for each 5,000 planted acres, with 253 fields surveyed in North Dakota and a planted acreage of approximately 1.3 million acres. Nearly 90,000 acres were planted in southwest North Dakota, but many acres were plowed down due to a combination of several spring freezes, dry weather and flea beetle activity. Planted acres in Minnesota were reduced by wet soil conditions that delayed planting; later in the season the harvestable acres were reduced by flooding and drown out. Only 14 fields were surveyed for an estimated 120,000 acres planted, but since only 40,000-50,000 acres were harvestable, the number of fields surveyed was appropriate.

Fields were surveyed when the crop was in the swath, facilitating counts of Sclerotinia and blackleg, but producing only rough estimates of aster yellows.

This was the 11th survey in North Dakota and the 7th in Minnesota. Sclerotinia incidence was lower than in any previous survey in either state, with 4.4% incidence in North Dakota and

7.3% in Minnesota. Although the incidence in individual fields was high, the incidence by county ranged from 0% in several North Dakota counties to as high as 11% in Burke and 22% in Divide counties in the northwest and 13% in Foster County in the central district; the number of fields surveyed in each of these three counties was small (6, 4 and 6, respectively), so one field with high incidence skewed the average for each of these counties. However, the average incidence for counties surveyed in the northeast, which traditionally has had a higher incidence of sclerotinia, was only 4.8% (compared to 17% in 2001), lower than the 5.9% incidence in the northwest or the 6.3% in the central district (compared to 32% in 2001). The incidence in Roseau County, MN was 10% (compared to 16.5% in 2001).

Blackleg incidence in Minnesota was minimal (0.2%), but in North Dakota blackleg incidence was half again as great as that of Sclerotinia. The North Dakota statewide blackleg incidence was 6.7%, greater than in any other year except 1991. The highest incidences of blackleg were in Ramsey (18.6%), Towner (12.9%) and Cavalier (10.7%) counties in the northeast and in Renville (15.0%) County in the northwest.

Another measure of the damage done by Sclerotinia or blackleg is the percentage of fields with an incidence of 30% or greater. An incidence of 30% with either disease represents a yield loss of nearly 20%. Only 3.2% of North Dakota fields surveyed had a Sclerotinia incidence of 30% or greater, compared with 13.5% in 2001. By contrast, the incidence of fields with greater than 30% blackleg was 5.1% in 2002 in North Dakota. There were 14.3% of surveyed fields in Minnesota that had a Sclerotinia incidence of 30% or greater in 2002, compared to 15.6% in 2001.

Aster yellows estimated incidence was minimal (1.1%) in North Dakota and slightly higher (5.0%) in Minnesota. Alternaria black spot pod severity was very low: 0.20% in North Dakota and 0.27% in Minnesota. The black spot severity in 2002 was lower in both states than in the six previous years (1996-2001).

We thank IPM scouts Lorilie Atkinson, Brooke Klein, Patrick Metzger, Kelly Novak, Chris Rylander and Holly Semler for their contribution in survey of fields in the central, north central, northwest and west central regions of North Dakota.

"Sclerotinia incidence was lower than any previous survey."

Arthur Lamey, Jan Knodel, Gregory Endres, Karen Andol\*, Roger Ashley, Ron Beneda, Carl Bradley, Nathan Johnson\*, Scott Knoke, Mike Liane, Mark Miller, Curt Nyegaard\*, Nels Peterson and Terry Lykken North Dakota State University and \*University of Minnesota

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Wales Farmers Elevator

*Grower & Industry support is crucial to the success of the NCGA. Please ask your neighbors & business associates who are involved in canola production to support the Canola Industry members.*

# Crop Insurance Summit Held

Agriculture commodity leaders, North Dakota State University and Billings Risk Management Agency met in Bismarck, ND in November to discuss current crop insurance restrictions. The one-day summit sponsored by the Northern Canola Growers Association was intended to bring all parties together to look at changes that can be implemented for the 2004 growing season. The major discussion at the summit was the current rotation restrictions that many North Dakota grown crops have. Two other areas of discussion were planting dates of canola and crop insurance availability for grain corn throughout North Dakota. Currently canola requires a two-year rotation with a minimum of a MR black leg rating on the seed and includes a 10% premium hike for the close rotation. The canola industry and North Dakota State University felt that current language was not reflective of a good rotation and recommended the following changes.

Canola – one year out of canola, mustard, crambe and rape-seed, no restrictions, no additional premium, no blackleg rating requirements.

The Northern Canola Growers Association was the only group concerned with current restrictions on planting dates. The dates for canola are more restrictive than other crops and the penalty for planting later than the date was also more restrictive. The summit participants agreed to recommend extending canola planting dates in each region an additional five days and changing the coverage discount after the final planting date to be 1% per day.

Billings Risk Management Agency will be taking all recommendations back to review and determine the new restrictions for crop insurance to be implemented in 2004.

## **VITAVAX® (CARBOXIN) Receives Full Label**

The EPA has granted a full label for Vitavax® (carboxin) manufactured by Gustafson, to control seed borne diseases in canola. Contact your dealer for further information. Refer to the label prior to spraying.

## **WARRIOR® Receives Full Label**

The EPA also granted a full label for Warrior®, manufactured by Syngenta, recently to control flea beetles in canola. Contact your dealer for further information. Refer to the label prior to spraying.

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